

ILLUSTRATED SPORTING NEWS



AND THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL REVIEW.

No. 20.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1862.

ONE PENNY.

THE ROYAL DRAMATIC COLLEGE.

AT the Dramatic Fete in aid of this institution, held on Saturday and Monday last, a clever production was issued in the shape of the *Royal Dramatic College News*. Therein we found an admirable description of the college, its present condition, and its future prospects. As in this number of the *Illustrated Sporting News* we give an engraving of this noble institution, as it will appear when completed, we cannot do better than accompany it with an epitome of the description we have alluded to.

In nearing Woking by the railway, the traveller sees the college approaching completion. The two main blocks of building—Elizabethan in their style—are finished. There are at present five houses in each block, each house containing two dwellings, so that accommodation for twenty pensioners upon the fund is provided.

These blocks are as handsome as any similar structures in the vicinity of London. Very appropriately the domestic architecture of the time of Shakespeare has been selected; and the oriel windows, the cloister, the graceful pillars with their floriated capitals, and the blending of colour in the red brick, white stone dressings, and variegated slates, presents to the traveller, as he views the college from the railway, an object that must delight every passer-by. It cannot escape observation that a large space intervenes between these blocks, and that their gables are unfinished. Towards these unoccupied pieces of ground we desire to point attention. The centre is designed for the hall of the college. The gables are to be built up to with schools. When complete therefore, at the extreme ends of this noble pile there will be the schools for the children of actors—a boy's and a girl's school respectively; then the residences of the pensioners on the funds; and, in the centre, the hall; the whole forming one complete range, standing on an admirable elevation commanding a view of the country for many miles around, with a terrace in front, and a garden sloping down some three hundred feet to the embankment of the railway. It has been the desire of the Council of the Dramatic College to complete, in the first instance, that for which the college was mainly intended, viz. a home for actors and actresses, who, having fallen into the "sere and yellow leaf," need repose, retirement, and comfort in the decline of years. As we have said, twenty homes are now ready for their inmates. In each house there are two residences—the one on the basement, looking out through the arches of the cloister; the other on the first floor, having large windows, many of them oriel, such as our Shakespeare himself might have delighted to sit in on a summer's eve. These residences are the most complete we have ever seen. Each contains a roomy parlour, a kitchen with scullery appliances, coal cellar and offices, and at the back a bed-room. The whole is shut off from the passages or entrances, so that every inmate can be as secluded and private as his tastes may desire. In the designing of these residences there has been a manifest delicacy and consideration for the domestic comfort and privacy of the inmates such as we have never seen elsewhere. No colleges in Oxford or Cambridge, no chambers in our inns of court, or in any similar institutions, can show such complete abodes so studiously furnished with every necessary comfort, as these residences of the Dramatic College. We think it most desirable that this should be known to the public, as evidence that the Council of the College have thoroughly studied the interests of their inmates. The building of the central hall will soon be completed, and for the interests not only of the college, but the drama, we would urge upon the council to erect a building, not only fitted for present wants, but sufficiently noble and large in proportion to be a shrine for the drama in centuries to come. This hall will be an imposing edifice, such as that in the Temple, where Shakespeare's play was performed in olden times. It will be sufficiently roomy to allow of its walls being adorned with pictures, relics, trophies of the drama, and also to be occupied with book-cases. This being done, the council will find that many a treasure will be bequeathed to their care, on condition that it is preserved in the great hall of the Dramatic College.



R. WEBSTER, Esq.—(From a Photograph by King, of Bath.)

We believe the public generally are impressed with the idea that the Dramatic College is only intended as a home for the worn-out actor. Such is a mistake. It is part of its design to provide a school for the children of members of the profession. Upon this ground, it seems to us that the college has the strongest claim to public sympathy. In these days of philanthropy, when Lord Shaftesbury is busy educating the outcasts of the street, and trying to improve them morally and socially, we fail to see how any one, who even disapproves of the theatre, could withhold his approval and support of schools, the object of which is not to train children for the stage, but to train them for the business of life generally. Actors, as a body, have to exist on very slender means, and are unable to give their children such advantages as the desire.

A good school attached to the Dramatic College would remove this financial difficulty, and for a comparatively trifling foundation charge, the boys and girls of the actor might receive those necessary rudiments which would help them to fight their own way in the world in some other calling than the stage, if they felt so disposed. Many a poor actor is compelled to thrust his child upon the boards because he cannot afford to give him a proper education, and cannot afford to keep him idle at home. The Dramatic Schools would remove this difficulty; and if in course of time scholarships could be attached to them, the player's boy would receive an encouragement or a help which at the present moment is extended to every other class of the rising community.

SHOOTING.

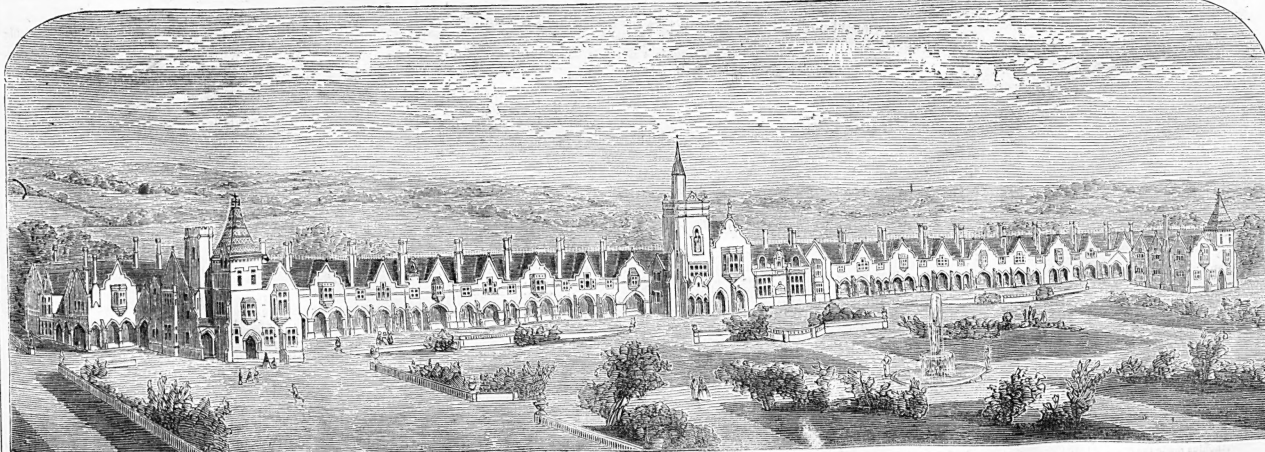
HORNSEY WOOD HOUSE.

On Thursday last two important matches were set for decision. The first was between Lord Stormont and Lord Huntingfield at twenty birds each, 30 yards rise, five traps, double guns, the use of both barrels. Barber, as usual, found the birds, and excellent they proved. Lord Stormont commenced, and at the third shot was one bird ahead, which advantage he held until the tenth round, when they were even. From here Lord Huntingfield crept gradually ahead, and at the end of the twentieth round he was found to be shot a match at twenty-three birds, and Mr. A. Seymour then double guns, the use of both barrels, Col. Annesley shooting at 50, and Mr. Seymour at 27 yards rise. Mr. Seymour took a strong lead at starting, killing, in first-rate style, nine out of his first ten birds. At the twentieth round the Colonel was one ahead, and, bringing down his twenty-first and last bird, won the match by two birds. Mr. Seymour missing his last.

On Saturday last the members of the club mustered in strong force, and some splendid sport took place. Captain Peyton and Major Anson shot a match at twenty-five pigeons each, Captain Peyton at 27 yards rise, the Major 22 yards. Major Anson won, killing the extraordinary number of twenty-one out of twenty-three. Score:—
Captain Peyton 1111101111101111
Major Anson 11111111111011111111

Mr. Walsh and Captain Wyndham also shot a match at twelve birds each, 30 yards rise, which was won by Mr. Walsh, killing eight out of nine, Captain Wyndham killing three only out of seven.

The great 10 sovs sweepstakes was then brought to a conclusion, the conditions of which were—10 sovs each, twelve birds each, 30 yards rise, from five traps, 110z shot, use of both barrels; the second saving his stake. Seven entered for it, and, after a keen contest, it was won by the Hon. G. H. Heathcote, Colonel Annesley and Sir Thomas Hesketh tying for second money, and in shooting off Sir Thomas won at the third round. The tenth bird shot at by Captain Peyton was hit hard, and flew round towards the spectators, and ere it cleared the boundary was shot at and brought to the ground by one of the on-lookers, and the referee, on being appealed to, allowed him another bird, which he killed.



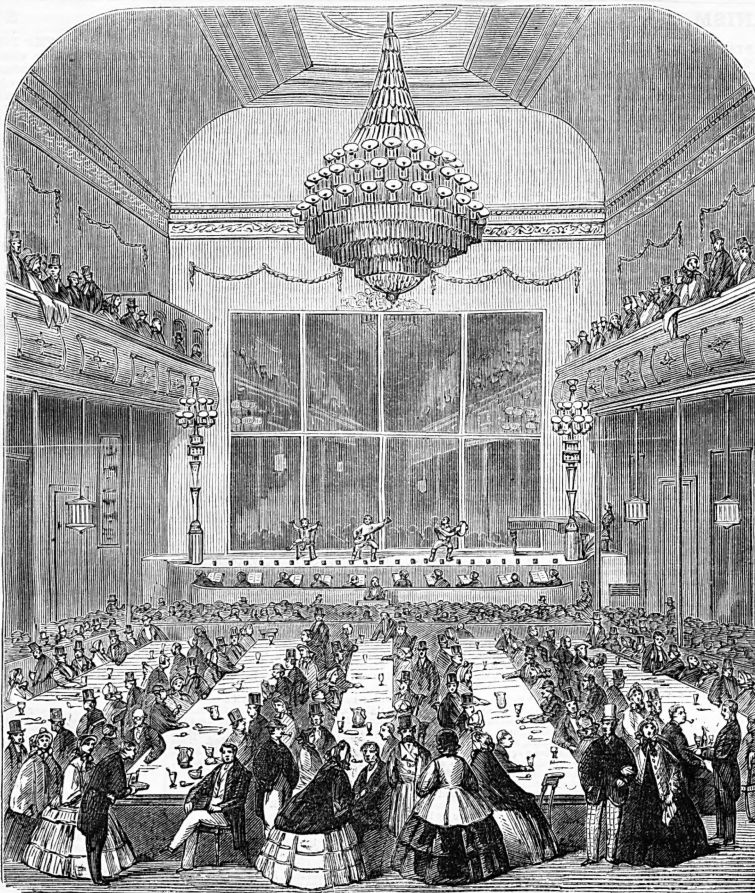
ROYAL DRAMATIC COLLEGE, WOKING.

THE ROYAL DRAMATIC COLLEGE FETE AND FANCY FAIR.

"Never anything can be amiss,
When simplicity and duty tender it.
Go, bring them in, and take your places,
Ladies."

"Peruse these bills, and see what can
do,—
Behold! the prince, the slave, the monk,
the Jew,
Change but the garment, and they'll en-
gage
To take each part, and act in every age!"

It would be but the repetition of a tale
I oft told to go back and trace the history
of the Royal Dramatic College, an insti-
tution which, we are proud to say, stands
on an equality with any of the numerous
charities which Heaven has blessed, and
to be found in Great Britain, presenting
so many noble monuments to the liber-
ality, the greatness, and the goodness of
the land. It would be a task of a pleasing
nature, often cheerfully undertaken and
admirably performed by almost every
English journalist unfettered by cant and
free from bigotry, to tell under whose care
the edifice was erected and has prospered,
and bestow upon those individuals the
laudation their efforts deserve. But we
are too late in the day for this; they have
only to glance at their work to mark what
it is accomplishing, and see the thousands
holding forth their contributions for its
benefit, and they will feel all that plea-
sure which we would have them expe-
rience, and which can only be derived
from works which have for their aim the
peace, happiness, and comfort of those
who have deserved well during long
years of labour, but who have unfortu-
nately not realised the reward which
should attend a well-spent youth and
prime of life. The triumph of the pro-
moters of the Royal Dramatic College is
now, we should presume, complete. They
had to contend with much spleen, nar-
row-mindedness, and insolent bigotry;
but that they have conquered was thor-
oughly proved on Saturday, July 19th,
when the Crystal Palace was thrown open
for their annual fete and fancy-fair, for
on that occasion they received an amount
of patronage which settled, beyond the
possibility of doubt, the question how
thoroughly the sympathy of the public is
on the side of the poor player. Last year
the promoters of the fete were attacked in
the most sinister manner by a journal
professing to guard the interests of the
theatrical world. They were accused of
boldness, and a variety of other faults
which we need not recapitulate. The
ladies of the profession were scolded—we
may say blackguarded—and we believe
the result of the fete was to be the down-
fall of the college, the disgrace of its
master, wardens, and friends, and the
complete triumph of cant. Sir Oracle put
forth his prophecy, and, sad to relate, it
had the effect of making the public ten
times more enthusiastic in the cause of
the players, and brought a greater crowd
than on any former occasion, to the
dramatic fete of this year. Everything
smiled on the undertaking; the day, after
a futile attempt to get up a storm in the
morning, turned out gloriously, and was,
in itself, a treat of no ordinary character;
but to spend such a day at the palace,
under such auspices as the dramatic fete
presented, was to be on the summit of



THE RAGLAN MUSIC HALL.

(From a Drawing by our own Artist.)

jollity, beyond the possibility of being
reached by a single care! This was what
every one seemed to think, and the
thousands of happy faces, the roars of
laughter, and the reckless expenditure of
capital was a sight to behold and to re-
member. We were about to say the
interior of the building was crowded, but
that would be a weak term—it was packed,
thronged, choked, and yet no one com-
plained of the crush; everybody told
somebody else how glad they were to see
the fete so well attended, and as to the
ripping out at the waist of a muslin dress
or the dragging off a delicate molair
shawl—bless us! a good, happy, gener-
ous British public rather seemed to enjoy
the thing. We think almost every rank
of society was represented on the occa-
sion, and we particularly noticed the
presence of a large number of reverend
gentlemen; we can scarcely express how
glad we were to see this, or set forth the
pleasure with which we beheld a very
reverend and noble bishop seemingly
delighted with the harmless fun progress-
ing on all sides. In the throng we noted
many of the leaders of fashion and a
large number of the luminaries of the
literary world, who were, of course, the
observed of all observers; and, among
all the motley assemblage, we could not
find one discontented face or hear one ex-
pression of disapprobation. People were
wheeled out of their money, and put up
with the initiation good humouredly;
they were cheated out of it in the most
barbarous manner, and they went on
being cheated as if their appetite grew
with that on which it fed, and only found
limit in the length of the purses they
brought with them. It was a glorious
sight, and we only wish that a large num-
ber of those French critics who misun-
derstand us so perfectly were there to see
what a sympathy exists between the rich
and poor of the country, what money we
can give when charity draws our purse-
strings, and what mirth we can get up
when we think proper. A dull people,
forsooth! Why, we can be merry even
to reckless men, when we know that we
are assisting a good cause and are assem-
bled to enjoy ourselves, in order that the
money we expend for amusement may
go to nurse the sick, house the poor, and
feed and clothe the indigent! And now
for a detail of the amusement provided
for the public at this fete.

At about one o'clock R. Romer, Esq.,
the herald of the College, attended by a
band which was agonising a bear, and
which, when contrasted with those
formed by itinerant German musicians,
make the latter appear to discourse
heavenly music, paraded the palace and
opened the fair by proclamation. It was,
as ladies say, such a document, and
ordered that nought but good ale, wines,
bread, confections, &c., should be vended
for the sustenance of the inner man;
and ordained "That all female vendors
of merchandise, fancy wares, and other
goods, having booths or stalls at said
fair, are hereby empowered and author-
ised by the master and wardens in
solemn council assembled, without let or
hindrance, to ply their calling in such
manner, season, art, or fashion as shall
obtain from the buyers at said booths or
stalls a large exchange in money for
such merchandise, fancy wares, and other
goods." And the vendors were further
empowered to exercise every grace and
art, in order to ease bachelors of "kindly
look and easy means" of all the super-
fluous coins of the realm they then and
there possessed—which arrangement, as
far as we could see, was perfectly equi-
table.



HON. ARTILLERY COMPANY'S ATHLETIC SPORTS.

(From a Drawing by our own Artist.)



HON. ARTILLERY COMPANY'S ATHLETIC SPORTS.
(From a Drawing by our own Artist.)

We must first of all dispose of the ladies and their stalls in the transept, which, of course, was the centre of attraction. In an enormous crowd we struggled to the centre stalls and found them, indeed, rich in the merchandise aforesaid, which the proclamation ordered to be exchanged for the superfluous cash of the "bachelors of kindly look." Almost in the centre of the galaxy of beauty stood Mrs. Alfred Mellon, who used every art and blandishment in order to dispose of her elegant wares. Near her we found Mrs. Stirling and Miss Stirling, mere *deities*, driving successful bargains with a vast throng only too anxious to adopt their eloquent advice and become possessed of everything useful and ornamental which they had to dispose of. Next we were tempted to stop and listen to the persuasive fun of Mrs. Howard Paul, who kept up a brilliant rivalry with her untiring and energetic neighbour Mrs. St. Henry. The adjoining stall was presided over by Miss Kate Kelly, who drove a brisk business, and with her pretty assistants found a host of admirers. Then we found Miss Elsworth and Miss Marriott, divested of all their tragic grandeur, smiling benignly on the throng, and taking money with the greatest assiduity. Miss Herbert came next, as beautiful and brilliant off the stage as on; committing sad havoc in the hearts of the before-mentioned kindly bachelors with the superfluous coins of the realm. Close to her was the ever welcome face of Mrs. Frank Matthews, smiling as it is wont to smile, and presenting as great an attraction as any other stall possessed. The neighbouring stall was held by Miss Katherine Hickson, whose appeal "Give and ye shall receive," few attempted to resist, and if any one did contrive to escape her they immediately fell a victim to pretty Miss Laidlaw, who would not be denied. Next this fascinating vendor we found Miss Lydia Thompson, whose presence must have been a perfect gold mine to the fund. It was no use to attempt to pass her; she would sell, and have her price, too. Never did the hundreds of young gentlemen we found struggling to get within the space over which she threw her enchantment before seek to set foot on ground half so dangerous. She coaxed them, laughed at them, and occasionally when it became desperate, chafed them out of their guineas. Oh, a dangerous little fair-haired, blue-eyed lady is Miss Lydia Thompson. Miss H. Simms, Miss Latimer, and Miss D. Howard had stalls directly opposite the three ladies last mentioned. They were largely patronised, and deservedly so, for a more elegant trio could not be chosen from the actresses of England. Then in close proximity came Mrs. Fitzwilliam, whose stall was under the distinguished patronage of Lord Dunsany and a vast number of other noblemen, not of the same class, but of the warm-hearted, liberal-minded, and intellectual type peculiar to our country. Miss Amy Sedgwick, whose stall stood next that of Mrs. Fitzwilliam, had an excellent day. We have before

seen her in the mimic "World of Fashion" reign supreme, and in the fashionable world where she appeared in *proprie person*, on this occasion she exercised an influence little less wonderful than that wielded by the "great mediocrity." Dark-haired and merry-eyed Miss Fanny Josephs looked whole quivers full of Cupid's darts in her immediate vicinity. She was as popular in her new role as we have always seen her in every other she has attempted; associated with her was Miss Kate Carson, in all her glory of raven tresses and great melting eyes, to look into which is to call up memories of the sunny south, very delightful to reflect upon; but one could scarcely get a glance at her before being arrested and forcibly detained by that queen of burlesque, Miss C. Saunders, whose mouth seems formed for nothing else but uttering the most terrible and awe-inspiring puns, and whose eyes throw out volumes of smart parodies every moment. Miss M. A. Atkinson, whose retiring grace and demureness, upon whom she was but too happy to wait with a zeal and energy beyond praise. Our list is almost closed, but there are yet a few names left we would not willingly pass over in silence. Miss C. Lucette is one of that number. She was immensely successful, and if at any time she should think of quitting the profession to which she is such an ornament, and choosing another, we should advise her to adopt stall-keeping; for if she were but half as successful in her own behalf as she was for her poorer brethren, she would soon accumulate a handsome fortune; more assuredly so if, as on this occasion, she had detached stall, and throve briskly. The talented and very beautiful sisters Carry and Sarah Nelson, of the St. James's Theatre, also had the care of a detached establishment (without the slightest connection with any firm over the way), where they made money with a rapidity which must have astonished even themselves. Last, but not least, we alighted on the fair-like Misses Conquest, who were occupying an independent stall. Such a bouquet of pretty sisters could do no other than add considerably to the general fund. As on previous occasions, Miss Eliza Johnstone swindled the British public out of considerable sums of money at a fair post-office, where she was aided and abetted with unflinching effrontery by her clever little sister. If after visiting all the ladies we have mentioned one had "a feather to fly with," he could have it taken from him in the coolest possible manner by Miss Agnes Burdett, who was located in a cave, very romantic and mysterious to behold, and was dressed in the proverbial costume of roguish gipsy girls, and told fortunes for any sum of money over 2s. 6d. it was possible to extract from her visitors. Now, we think we have done with the ladies, and will pass on to the gentlemen; and first on the list we find that funny fellow, Mr. Toole, who, in con-



THE HIGHLAND GATHERING AT BEAUFORT HOUSE.
PUTTING THE STONE.
(From a Drawing by our own Artist.)

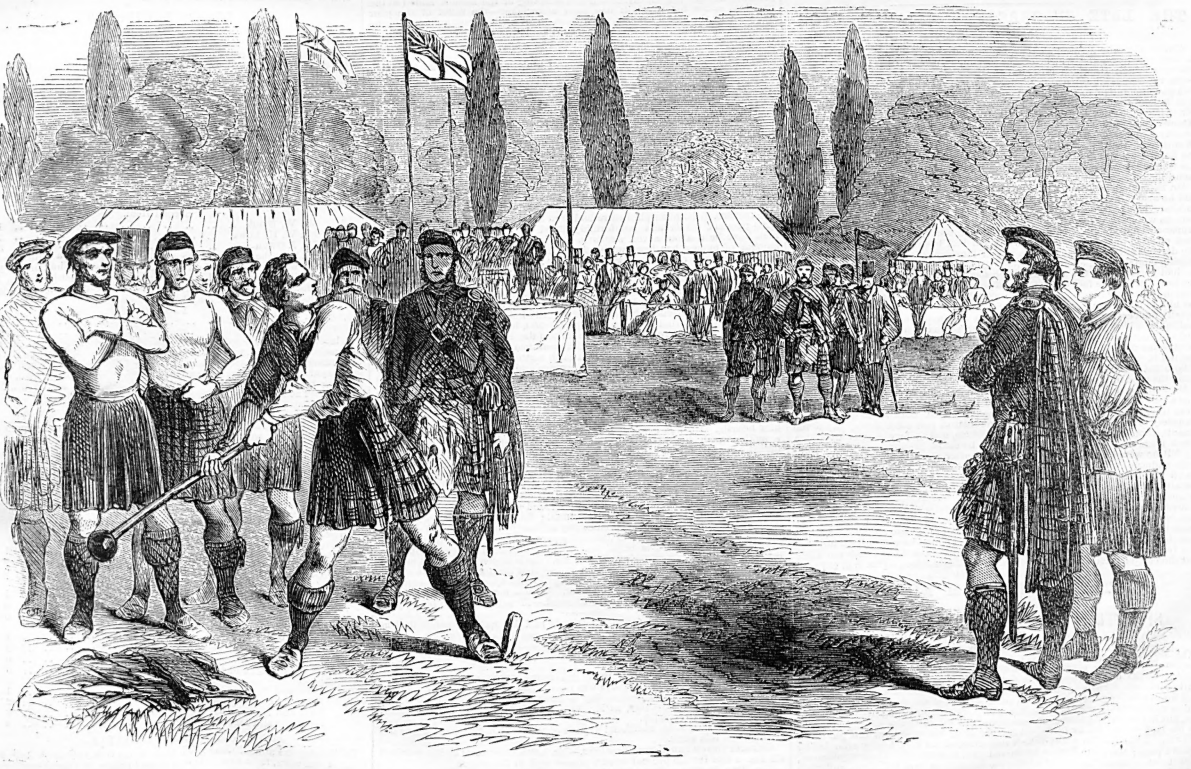


SERG. PIXLEY, VICTORIA RIFLES.
WINNER OF THE QUEEN'S PRIZE AT THE RIFLE-SHOOTING
CONTEST AT WIMBLEDON.
(From a Photograph.)

junction with Mr. Paul Bedford, worked like a true Briton for the good cause. First of all we found him in possession of a peep-show—a dangerous thing in his hands, for he contrived in an hour or two therewith to half kill a vast number of people by sending them into violent convulsive fits of laughter. The peep-show was a great hit; throngs poured to it and paid their shillings to behold the wonderful drama of real life therein pictorially set forth, and which Mr. Toole described in his own inimitable way. We have no doubt the production was of thrilling interest, but we cannot say for certain, because, after paying for our peep, Mr. Bedford insisted that there was room for a lady, and we were made the willing victim to the accommodation of the fair sex; but we are convinced of the worth of the drama from the description of the plot, which set forth how a certain youth loved a maid who was the daughter of a bold baron, who possessed a dungeon beneath his castle moat, described as a perfect cell, wherein everybody is confined until the hero comes into £20,000 per annum every year, paid quarterly, and then the piece ends with the joy of everybody and the downfall of somebody amidst a great display of fireworks and real water. The effect of the piece must have been considerably enhanced by the exhibitor pulling all the strings at once, and making the scenery keep up a perpetual jig of the liveliest character. After making a little fortune out of the show, Messrs. Toole and P. Bedford opened a photographic establishment, where they took portraits of parties in a novel and most mirth-provoking manner. Here they repeated another rich harvest. Their efforts cannot be too highly praised, for no two men ever worked harder for the benefit of the college than they did on the days of the fair.

Messrs. Buckstone, Lewis Ball, Worboys, and Frank Matthews opened a court for assaults on that much injured female known as Aunt Sally; dreadful to say, Mr. Buckstone persuaded large numbers of the fair sex to batter the poor old lady's nose, at the rate of "three shillings a shilling," and the wicked creatures appeared to enjoy the fun amazingly.

Mr. Jas. Rogers had a place of amusement under his sole management, wherein he exhibited certain killing comical *poes plastiques*, to the edification of a continued influx of visitors, who sincerely sympathised with "the late Widow Melnotte," pathetically described on the placard outside the show as having "nothing else to live on." There was a "Cirque Olympique," with Mr. Payne at its head. Within this equestrian temple could be seen, for the low sum of one shilling, wondrous acts of horsemanship, and great feats performed by highly trained (basketwork) steeds from Aulley's, or any other stable. The performances included many interesting features, amongst which were the daring acts of the "Maniac Bouncer of the Chimpanzees," and



THE HIGHLAND GATHERING AT BEAUFORT HOUSE.
THROWING THE HAMMER.
(From a Drawing by our own Artist.)

out of the town, for a new boat and money prizes, as follows:—second man, £5; third, £2 10s.; fourth, £2; fifth, £1 10s.; sixth, £1. The third heat to be the second and third men in from each division. In the fourth heat, the first man of the first and second heats to row with the first and second men

are available at the Anerly Station.

